(f) whether satisfactory mechanism has been set up in Government to quickly process various bids and finalize the contracts and if so, what are the details in this regard; and

(g) whether the Directorate of Hydrocarbon Resources has become fully operational?

THE MINISER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPT. SATISH SHARMA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) As per current estimates the production of indigenous crude oil during 8th Plan period is expected to be 169.45 MT.

(d) The outlook for imports during 1996-97 is as under:—

	Quantity (MT)	Value (Rs./crores)
Crude Oil . .	13.65	5,869
Products . . .	18.58	13,396

(e) First, Second and Third Round of bidding are already over. Under the Fourth Round of bidding, award of five contracts have been announced. Under the Fifth Round of bidding, 15 bids have been received by the last date of 30th June, 1993. For the Sixth Round, last date of receipt of bids is 31st December, 1993.

(f) Separate cell has been created in the Ministry for expeditious finalisation of the contracts under the various rounds of bidding.

(g) The Directorate General of Hydrocarbons has started functioning.

Penalities to be paid due to delay in finalising contract

764. SHRI VIREN J. SHAH:
SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to a report which was published in the Business Standard of November 1, 1993 captioned 'huge penalities to be paid for delay in finalising contract';

(b) if so, what are the facts in this regard;

(c) what are the details of the bids invited and also of the contract relating to 1244 km Second Bassein Hazira Trunk (SBHT) Pipeline Project;

(d) on which date the bids were invited; submitted by each party; opened evaluated and letter of intent issued, and contract finalised with details in each case;

(e) whether it is a fact that the ONGC had decided to invite re-bids for the said contact from certain parties with changed terms and conditions, if so, what are the reasons therefor and what are the details thereof;

(f) whether the delay in the finalisation of the contract has delayed the entire project resulting in the continued flaring of natural gas at Bombay High and also ONGC shall have to pay huge penalties to the pipe-laying contractor; and

(g) if so, what are the facts and what steps Government have so far taken in this regard?

THE MINISER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPT. SATISH SHARMA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (e) ONGC had floated a global tender on 17.7.92 for coating and laying of the Second Bassein-Hazira Trunk Pipeline under Asian Development Bank (ADB) funding. Techno-commercial bids were opened on 6.10.92 and after evaluation and processing for ADB's concurrence prices bids were called from qualified bidders on 15.7.93 and opened on 30.7.93. The award of contracts for Group 'X' portion of the coating works

was notified to M/s PSL Pipe Coaters Ltd. on 20.9.93 and for laying works to the consortium of M/s Hyundai Heavy Industries Co. Ltd and Offshore Hyundai International on 6.10.93.

As 'Y' portion of the coating works was not to be funded by ADB, certain changes in the tender conditions were necessary and hence ONGC had obtained revised prices from all the technically acceptable bidders. However, one of the bidders filed a Writ Petition in the Calcutta High Court. The tender was then processed further keeping in view the directions of the High Court and the award of contract for Group 'Y' was notified to Otoklin Al-Qantani Consortium on 24.11.93.

(f) and (g) As notification of award for both Group X and Y of coating works and laying of pipeline has already been made, the project is likely to be completed within schedule and no flaring of gas on account of delay in completion of this project nor payment of huge penalities to the pipe laying contractor is envisaged by ONGC at this stage.

Private parties to import petroleum Products

765. SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA:
SHRI N. E. BALARAM:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to allow private parties to import and sell petroleum products including LPG and Kerosen;

(b) if so, the details of the policy in this regard;

(b) whether it is a fact that already some Oil companies have started calling for distributors and deposits from LPG consumers;

(d) if so, the names of such companies; and

(e) what precautions are taken to see that the common people are not cheated by such "Oil Companies"?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPT. SATISH SHARMA): (a) and (b) Government have announced in February 1993 the decision to introduce parallel marketing of Kerosene, LPG and LSHS by private agencies using/setting up their own bottling and distribution network for sale of such products at market determined prices under their own terms for which they do not need to obtain any license from the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas. However, they are required to obtain necessary clearance from statutory authorities, local bodies, etc., as applicable. Under the Kerosene (Restriction of use and Fixation of Ceiling Price) Order, 1993 and the LPG (Regulation of Supply and Distribution) Order, 1993, the parallel marketeers are required to intimate their intention and capabilities to import, bottle, market, distribute or sale of such products before commencement of these activities and submit a monthly report giving details of the products imported by them. Besides, they have to furnish to the Government or to such authorities as specified by the Government all the relevant particulars and information as required.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) A list of names of those private entrepreneurs whose advertisements have come to the notice of Government and who have calld for distributors and deposits from LPG consumers is given on the Statement.

(e) The public have been advised to ascertain the antecedents and bonafides of advertised parties before they enter into business with them. The Oil Industry and the Field Officers of the State Governments have started verification of the bonafides and capabilities of the advertising parallel marketeers to undertake such business. Besides the MRTP Commission is also understood to have initiated action against some such advertisers.